

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/025,587
Amendment dated July 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 19, 2004

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A waist expanding and contracting structure for ~~any one of pants, culottes, and skirts~~ an article of clothing having waist pockets comprising;

a waist part consisting of a front waist part, a back waist part, and a side waist part,

said front waist part being composed of a front waist surface cloth sewn to an upper end of a front body part and a front waist reverse cloth sewn to an upper end of a reverse cloth of said front body part, both of said front waist surface cloth and said front waist reverse cloth being joined together at upper edges thereof by sewing,

said back waist part being composed of a back waist surface cloth sewn to an upper end of a back body part and a back waist reverse cloth sewn to an upper end of a reverse cloth of said back body part, both of said back waist surface cloth and said back waist reverse cloth being joined together at the upper edges thereof by sewing,

said side waist part being arranged so as to be positioned between said front waist surface cloth and said front waist reverse cloth, and formed at an upper end of a side cloth of said waist pocket,

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wherein said structure includes a first elastic member which is positioned between said front waist surface cloth and said front waist reverse cloth with one end of said first elastic member being sewn to said side waist part and with[[it's]] the other end of said first elastic member being sewn to both said front waist surface cloth and said front waist reverse cloth ~~by sewing together~~,

a second elastic member which is positioned at a rear of said side waist part with one end of said second elastic member being sewn to said back waist part and with [[it's]] the other end of said second elastic member being sewn to said front waist reverse cloth,

said side cloth being folded back to be sewn to a hemmed edge of said waist pocket, and a pocket bag to be opened and closed by a fastener which is provided between said front body part and said reverse cloth of said front body part.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The waist expanding and contracting structure for ~~any one of pants, culottes and skirts~~ an article of clothing as claimed in claim 1, which includes a waist belt which is sewn to a part of said back waist part at its one end, and a ring for allowing said waist belt to pass therethrough which is attached to an end of said front waist surface cloth by means of a third elastic member, whereby said waist belt which has been adjusted in length can be expanded or contracted.

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Claim 3 (currently amended): The waist expanding and contracting structure for ~~any one of pants, culottes and skirts~~ an article of clothing as claimed in claim 2, wherein there is formed a gathered portion by sewing a fourth elastic member to a part of said back waist part, and an end of said waist belt is sewn to an end of said gathered portion thereby to cover said gathered portion.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The waist expanding and contracting structure for ~~any one of pants, culottes and skirts~~ an article of clothing as claimed in claim 2, wherein said side waist part is provided with a belt loop, and said waist belt is adapted to be folded back at said ring, after said waist belt has passed through said belt loop.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The waist expanding and contracting structure for ~~any one of pants, culottes and skirts~~ an article of clothing as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein said waist belt is adapted to be fastened or detached by means of a hook and loop fastener having both male and female loops.